

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00286 281222Z

45

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 EUR-12 COME-00

XMB-02 FRB-03 OPIC-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AGR-05

L-02 /089 W

----- 095105

R 281100Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6157

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0286

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GB, US

SUBJ: CALL BY AF/C DIRECTOR CUTLER ON PRESIDENT BONGO

1. AF/C DIRECTOR CUTLER, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR, CALLED ON PRESIDENT BONGO MORNING FEBRUARY 27. PRESIDENT BONGO WAS IN VERY FRIENDLY, RELAXED MOOD AND CONVERSATION LASTED ONE AND A HALF HOURS COVERING WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS.

2. BONGO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE TO RAILROAD, FOR PEACE CORPS ACTIVITIES AND FOR USG DECISION CONCERNING DC-8. BONGO THEN PLACED GREAT STRESS ON GABON'S DESIRE TO INCREASE COMMERCIAL TIES WITH U.S. AND GABON'S DETERMINATION NOT TO REMAIN CAPTIVE MARKET OF FRENCH. BONGO SAID GABON WAS LIKE HOUSE WITH MANY DOORS OPEN TO OUTSIDE WORLD AND PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING RELATIONS WITH U.S. SPECIFICALLY, BONGO STRESSED DESIRE TO EXPAND GABONESE AGRICULTURE. PRESIDENT ALSO STATED HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORRISON-KNUDSEN INVOLVED IN THE BUILDING OF THE THIRD LEG OF TRANSGABON RAILROAD (BOOUE-BELINGA) AND HE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT M-K HAD OPTED OUT OF POUBARA DAM CONSTRUCTION. AMBASSADOR SAID HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO FIND OTHER U.S. FIRMS INTERESTED IN PROJECT. CUTLER  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LIBREV 00286 281222Z

EMPHASIZED U.S. DESIRE TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN

EXCELLENT RELATIONS CURRENTLY EXISTING BETWEEN U.S.  
AND GABON AND THANKED PRESIDENT FOR HIS COURTESIES.  
INCLUDING LOAN OF MYSTERE AIRCRAFT.

3. BONGO MENTIONED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE DURING COURSE  
OF CONVERSATION THAT FRENCH AMBASSADOR RIBO WOULD BE  
LEAVING SHORTLY, AT PRESIDENT'S REQUEST, AND THAT FORMER  
FRENCH AMBASSADOR DELAUNEY WOULD BE RETURNING TO  
LIBREVILLE. BONGO WENT ON TO NOTE THAT, IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH NEW AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH FRANCE (NEVER PUBLISHED),  
FRENCH AMBASSADOR WOULD NO LONGER BE AUTOMATICALLY DEAN  
OF CORPS AFTER RIBO'S DEPARTURE AND BONGO ADDED WITH A  
SMILE THAT WHEN DELAUNEY RETURNED HE WOULD FIND U.S. AMBASSADOR  
DEAN OF CORPS.

4. CLEAR THAT PRESIDENT BONGO WAS PLEASED WITH VISIT  
OF AF/C DIRECTOR AND FACT THAT CUTLER HAD BEGUN HIS  
TRIP TO AFRICA IN GABON. TRIP CERTAINLY HELPFUL TO  
EMBASSY AND REPRESENTED POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO OUR RELATIONS  
HERE.  
MCKESSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LIBREV00286  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750071-0392  
**From:** LIBREVILLE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t1975023/aaaaacnf.tel  
**Line Count:** 82  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CALL BY AF/C DIRECTOR CUTLER ON PRESIDENT BONGO  
**TAGS:** PFOR, OVIP, GB, US, (CUTLER, WALTER L), (BONGO, ALBERT BERNARD)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006